

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000386
Date 24 August 2016

Funding - Grants

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Wolverhampton City Council.

The level of funding that the Council has made available by way of grants for, or the commissioning of, social welfare law and money advice providers including Citizens Advice, non profit law centres, and independent advice agencies (sometimes generically described as “community advice services”). By “social welfare law” we mean all matters related to asylum, benefits and welfare rights, community care, debt, education (including special educational needs), employment, housing and immigration.

Please provide this information for the following years.

2012-2013
2013-2014
2014-2015
2015-2016

In response to your above request, the information has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us longer than 18 hours to compile as we do not record this type of information centrally and therefore we would have to approach each area within the Council to gather the

information you have requested as different areas of the Council will have funded advice organisations over that time period into this category separately.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- “(a) determining whether it holds the information,*
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.*

However under Section 16 (duty to provide advice and assistance) it would be useful if you could rescope your request so as not to exceed the appropriate cost limit and provide us with the areas that are of interest to you eg., Public Health, Council Tax in order that we may concentrate on just those categories. This would help us to identify and provide you with the information you require.

Also we have provided you with a table below which gives information for the years 2012 – 2016 relating to advice and welfare organisations. Please note that this is not a definitive list of all the funding (as mentioned above) but hope this is of help to you.

| Organisation | Year | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2012-2013 £ | 2013-2014 £ | 2014-2015 £ | 2015-2016 £ |
| Age UK | 120,130 | 180,610 | 48,050 | 48,050 |
| Base 25 | 27,160 | 27,160 | 27,160 | - |
| Blakenhall Community Advice Centre | 61,440 | 61,440 | 10,240 | - |
| BME United | 51,365 | 51,365 | 51,370 | - |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | 367,200 | 589,200 | 378,200 | 399,200 |
| Job Change | 69,090 | 59,290 | 59,290 | 60,090 |
| One Voice | 34,680 | 34,680 | 34,680 | - |
| Refugee and Migrant Centre | 29,994 | 29,995 | - | - |
| SEWA Centre | - | 24,865 | - | - |
| St Georges Charity | 36,520 | 36,520 | 36,520 | - |
| The Haven | 231,030 | 204,225 | 175,000 | 175,000 |
| TLC College | 15,573 | - | - | - |